

NOV 24 2003
PAT. & TRADEMARK OFFICE

ASA-912

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

T. AIZONO et al

Serial No. 09/645,450

Group Art Unit: 2155

Filed: August 25, 2000

Examiner: P. Winder

For: TRANSPORT SYSTEM

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REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION AND
RESET OF THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 24, 2003

Sir:

The Applicants have received an Office Action dated November 17, 2003 (Paper No. 6). The Applicants request clarification of the following matters.

On page 2, item 4, the Examiner states, "Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Tso et al., USPN 6,047,327." A rejection of claim 6 is also set forth under this section (item 8, page 3), in addition to the rejection of claims 1-3. It appears that the Examiner intended to reject claim 6 under §102(a) as being anticipated by Tso et al, but the rejection is not clear.

On page 4, item 10, the Examiner states, "Claims 7-9, 11-18 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

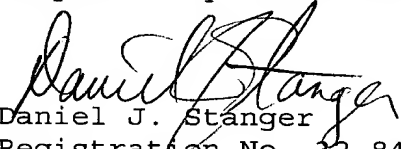
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

anticipated by Hancock et al., USPN 6,202,023 B1." The Office Action proceeds with an explanation of the rejections of claims 7-9, 11-18, and 20, with no corresponding rejection of claim 10. It appears that a typographical error resulted in the rejection of claim 10 rather than claim 20, under this section. However, the Office Action is not clear on this point.

The Applicants request a clarification of the status of claims 6, 10, and 20. the Applicants further request a reset of the statutory period for response to coincide with the mailing date of the clarification.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional payment due, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

Respectfully submitted,


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